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AFRL announces Contracting Award winners

by **Katherine Gleason, AFRL Public Affairs**

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Research Laboratory recently announced its 2002 Annual Contracting Award winners, which recognize the outstanding individual, team, and organizational accomplishments of contracting professionals. Honorees were recognized at the AFRL Contracting Awards Banquet in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. on March 11.

Additionally, four of AFRL's winners were also chosen for recognition by the Air Force Materiel Command. AFMC level winners were: 1st Lt. Christian Leimkuehler, Jane Hendricks, the AFRL/Det. 1 Radiation Hardened Capital Expansion Team, and the Information Directorate Contracting Division. AFMC winners were honored at the Annual Contracting Awards banquet at Wright-Patterson AFB on Mar. 25.

Outstanding CGO in Contracting (S&T)

Leimkuehler, a contract specialist in the Information Directorate's Information Grid and Systems Branch, was honored for providing outstanding support beyond his normal duties during FY02. He showed willingness to take on additional responsibilities, learn new skills and train others.

Outstanding Civilian (GS-12 and Above) in Contracting (S&T)

Hendricks, of the Propulsion Directorate's Advanced Propulsion and Turbine Contracting Branch, served as the senior PCO and business advisor for the \$750M Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology program. She was recognized for her efforts in planning, developing and implementing acquisition strategy for many complex and high priority programs within AFRL.

Outstanding Civilian (GS-11 and Below) in Contracting (S&T)

Suntok McGuinness, a contract negotiator at Edwards Air Force Base was chosen for her innovative thinking and ceaseless efforts. She was noted for her willingness to volunteer to handle both new awards that required immediate action, and complex modifications that needed detailed analysis and negotiations.

Outstanding Contract Staff (Field)

Stephen Sandager received this award by distinguishing himself in his commitment to acquisition excellence at Kirtland Air Force Base. While working as a procurement analyst for AFRL Det. 8, Sandager led an initiative to develop and maintain a knowledgeable work force by conducting monthly seminars for Det. 8 AFRL/PK and Technology Directorate personnel.

Outstanding Contract Clearance

A procurement analyst for the Information Directorate's Acquisition Development Branch, Gary Slopka provided outstanding support as clearance advisor for approximately 65 percent of FY02 new contract actions. He conducted clearance reviews in support of both research and development and operational contracting branches.

Outstanding Contracting Support

Although she has since retired, Patricia Martin spent FY02 serving as the "go to" person for 130 people. She served as the expert on DD350 and DD2566 reporting, and developed hands-on training for all of Det. 1 AFRL.

Secretary of the Air Force Professionalism in Contracting (Supervisory)

This award was presented to Steven Ewers, Chief, Information/Sensor Application Contracting for the Sensor's Directorate's Information/Sensor Application Branch. Ewers developed and motivated his team to maximize productivity, achieving optimal performance with a heavy workload and a 45 percent turnover in personnel.

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Secretary of the Air Force Professionalism in Contracting (Nonsupervisory)

Working as a contract negotiator for the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, Stephen Davis has been actively involved in the continued growth and development of numerous individuals both in and out of the contracting field.

Outstanding Contracting Contingency (Officer)

Capt. John Del Barrio distinguished himself serving as Logistic Director and Contingency Contracting Officer, United States Central Command Liaison Team in Islamabad, Pakistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was instrumental in freeing more than 1,000 worldwide shipments delayed in customs for in excess of six months, which helped multiply the force protection for deployed members.

Outstanding Pricing (Team)

The Det. 8 Pricing Branch, was recognized for its commitment to outstanding support to PCOs and buyers conducting research and development and operational acquisitions. They provided high-quality pricing and negotiation support, developed innovative pricing tools, and presented comprehensive pricing education in their pursuit of superior customer support. Team members are: Gelaine Jensen, Rosemary Sharpe, Diane Kirby, Linda Aldridge, Jill Harral, Mary Roybal, Yolanda Shannon and Cheryl Laskowski.

Outstanding Achievement in Contracting Information Technology (Team)

This award was presented to Det. 8 Information Technology. Members are Georgia Garcia, John Webb, Sharon Duran and Matthew DeBack. This team was recognized for its commitment to acquisition excellence at Kirtland Air Force Base. The team provided steadfast support to the buyer and contracting officer teams, enabling timely awards of high-quality, enforceable contracts.

Outstanding Contracting Team

Receiving this honor was the Radiation Hardened Capital Expansion Team from Det. 1, consisting members Timothy Jones, Sheila Titer, Susan Palmer and Stephan Davis. The team was honored for establishing the business approach for this unique and highly visible \$167M Defense Production Act, Title III project.

Outstanding Contracting Unit (S&T)

This year's recipient of the Outstanding Contracting Unit Award went to the Information Directorate's Contracting Division. During FY02, this unit awarded more than 3000 contracts and assistance agreements, totaling nearly \$500M. Customer service also plays an important role, with the division continually looking for innovative process improvements. As a result of their efforts, Rome Research Site enjoyed an expanded customer base with a total value 13 percent higher than the previous year.

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